

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently amended) A gas-generation device for generating a hydrogen-rich gas from at least one of partial oxidation of an oxygen/fuel mixture or catalytic steam reforming of a water/fuel mixture, comprising:

a partial oxidation reactor by which a product gas is generated;

a steam reformer downstream of the partial oxidation reactor to which the product gas generated by the partial oxidation reactor is fed;

an adiabatic, catalytic after-treatment stage arranged between the partial oxidation reactor and the steam reformer by which an oxygen content in the product gas is minimized before it is fed to the steam reformer.

6. (Original) A device according to Claim 5, wherein the catalytic after-treatment stage comprises a precious metal-containing catalyst.

7. (Original) A device according to Claim 5, wherein the catalytic after-treatment stage comprises a catalyst support having a low heat capacity.

8. (Original) A device according to Claim 5, further comprising heating means for heating at least one of the steam reformer or the adiabatic, catalytic after-treatment stage.

Application No. 09/934,695

Reply to Office Action dated October 19, 2004

9. (Currently amended) A device according to Claim 5, wherein the adiabatic catalytic after-treatment stage is integrated into the partial oxidation reactor or the steam reformer.